

HOUSE BILL 898
By Cooper B

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5605 and Section 49-5-5606, relative to teacher licensure.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5606, is amended by designating the current language as subsection (a) and by adding the following language, to be designated as subsection (b):

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this section or any other law to the contrary, if a classroom teacher has taken the state teacher's examination, required by § 49-5-5605, on at least three (3) occasions but has not achieved a passing score; and if such teacher's instructional skills and performance in the classroom have been systematically observed, analyzed and found to be exceptional by a locally-appointed LEA committee consisting of at least two (2) school principals and two (2) classroom teachers who supervise or instruct students in schools other than the school in which the teacher is employed; and if the LEA director of schools recommends state licensure of such teacher based upon such findings and upon personal knowledge of the teacher's outstanding capabilities and work ethic, then the state board of education is authorized to award a state license or conditional license without a passing score on the state

teacher's examination. However, prior to issuing any such license or conditional license, the state board may require the LEA committee, the LEA director or the teacher to personally appear before the state board or a committee thereof in order to submit to questioning.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it.